

**2006 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS (SRGS)  
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND MENTORSHIPS  
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Dear Student,

Welcome to the 2006 Summer Residential Governor's Schools application process. Any student who considers himself /herself eligible may complete this application. Please review the information carefully and speak with your guidance counselor or gifted education coordinator to ensure that you meet all division and state deadlines.

The application process is a joint effort involving the student, the local school, the school division or the private school region, and the Department of Education (VDOE). This document contains general program information about the Summer Residential Governor's Schools. The application contains parts of the application that you must complete, and parts to be completed by teachers and your school counselor. All parts of the application are available in Word® and .pdf formats, as appropriate, at the following Web site:

[www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/SRGS](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/SRGS)

Teachers and school counselors may access the forms they need from this same site. Your application has information sheets that you should give to the two teachers/adults whom you are asking to provide recommendations and to the guidance office for other data. The actual forms that they submit are not found in the application.

All applications must be printed and signed by the student and parent/guardian in order to be considered. It is important to note that incomplete applications may not be considered. Please review the information in this guide carefully and consult your school counselor for deadlines.

**Good Luck!**

Virginia Governor's Schools  
Office of Middle/High School Instruction  
Division of Instruction  
Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

**NOTE:** The Summer Residential Governor's School for Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) as well as the Governor's Foreign Language Academies have separate applications and timelines. The 2006 SRGS VPA application is available from the Web site provided above. The 2006 Governor's Foreign Language application is available at the following Web site: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Language/GAindex.html>.

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

SUGGESTED DEADLINES		
DATE COMPLETED	DATE	ACTIVITY
	October 2005	Applications made available by the VDOE via Internet.
	January 9, 2006	Suggested deadline for student to submit pages ACAD 1-4 to the secondary school counselor at his/her high school.
	January 9, 2006	Suggested deadline for Academic Teacher Recommendations A and B to submit rating scales and narratives to the secondary school counselor at the student's local school.
	January 13, 2006	Suggested deadline for school principal or designee to submit completed applications to the school division/regional selection committee.
	February 16, 2006	Deadline for the school division/regional selection committee to mail applications and to send the nomination report form electronically to the VDOE.
	Mid-April, 2006	Status notification will be made available to all nominees and school division or private school gifted education coordinators.

Please add specific dates provided by your school counselor or gifted education coordinator for your reference later in the process.

**2006 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL GOVERNOR'S SCHOOLS (SRGS)  
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND MENTORSHIPS  
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

The Summer Residential Governor's Schools (SRGS) Academic Programs and Mentorships are month-long residential programs for tenth- and eleventh-grade gifted students in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The goal of each Governor's School is to provide those who attend opportunities for intellectual as well as social and emotional growth. In the company of dedicated, highly skilled professionals representing a variety of careers, selected students are encouraged to establish and fulfill their academic goals. The programs are housed on various campuses throughout the Commonwealth and are funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia and local school divisions.

The SRGS academic programs provide intellectually challenging and enriching experiences within a community of mutual support, respect, and dedication for a limited number of academically/intellectually gifted, current year tenth- and eleventh-grade high school students. Each college-based program provides a curriculum that integrates subject matter from various disciplines around its overall program theme. Each mentorship program provides challenging work experiences relevant to the mentorship site.

Participants in the Summer Residential Governor's Schools represent the diverse geographical areas of the commonwealth; however, they will have in common their desire to explore academic pursuits at a level not typically available in the local school division. A typical student schedule involves concentrated study in a particular field during the day. Activities may include seminars, special interest groups, independent study, and laboratory or field/site work. Students in both small-group and individual activities will share their investigations and research with university faculty, Governor's School faculty/staff, and fellow students. Evening and weekend activities that are integral to the goals of the program include recreation, field trips, and special events such as concerts, lectures by visiting scholars, career information, dramatic productions, movies, student performances, and time to collect thoughts and participate in informal discussions.

Students in the academic program will attend classes specific to their interest area(s) as well as interdisciplinary classes and workshops. Field trips, recreational activities, and sports activities, as well as free time, are built into the student's schedule. These programs are some of the most rewarding and enriching experiences available to high school students anywhere, since they require students to set their own learning goals and structure their own evaluation standards. One of the most valued acquisitions will be the friendships that Governor's School students develop and that will continue to evolve throughout time.

### **CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS**

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Any student who wishes to complete an application may do so. Schools are strongly encouraged to review the selection criteria with students and to assist them in recognizing the competition they face at the state level. The school must provide an application to any student who meets the eligibility criteria listed below.

- In the **Academic and Mentorship** programs, a student may have been identified as gifted. *The Regulations Governing Educational Services for Gifted Students* (8 VAC 20-40-50, Criteria for Screening and Identification) define the areas in which students may be identified as gifted. If a student has been identified through the local division identification process, the score on the norm-referenced ability, achievement, or aptitude measure **used in the identification process** may be used as one of the required tests. A second required score must come from a norm-referenced ability, achievement, or aptitude measure **administered within the past three years**.
- A student shall be neither a current applicant to a 2006 Governor's Foreign Language Academy or other Summer Residential Governor's School, nor a former participant in these programs. **Students may attend only one program.**
- A student who participates in an Academic-Year Governor's School or has participated in one of the 20 Summer Regional Governor's Schools **MAY** apply.

- A student shall be genuinely interested in attending the Governor's School and have the emotional maturity, stability, and self-discipline to live away from home for an extended period.
- A professional who knows the academic ability and strength of the student in the selected area shall recommend the student.

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DATES**

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- Agriculture (AG) (4 weeks) July 2 – July 29, 2006
  - Program begins at 2 p.m.
- Humanities (HUM) (4 weeks) July 2 - July 29, 2006
  - Program begins at 1 p.m.
- Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM) (4 weeks) June 24 – July 21, 2006
  - Program begins at 12 p.m.
- Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST) (4 weeks) July 2 - July 29, 2006
  - Program begins at 2 p.m.

These programs accommodate approximately 490 students at these locations:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Student Capacity</b>
Agriculture (AG)	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	100
Humanities (HUM)	University of Richmond	200
Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM)	Virginia Commonwealth University	30
Mathematics, Science, Technology (MST)	Lynchburg College	160

### **MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS**

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Some students will prefer to apply for one of the two mentorships available with the Summer Residential Governor's School. These programs offer individualized student assignment to one or more researchers/graduate students, or engineers at the two sites. Selection is based on the match between mentors available during a specific summer and the skills, interests, and experiences of the individual student. **Students accepting mentorships, and those in LSM, must have access to a personal computer for use during Governor's School.**

Governor's School for Engineering (NASA) (4 weeks) June 25 – July 22, 2006  
*NASA/Langley Research Center* Program begins at 3 p.m.

Governor's School for Marine Science (VIMS) (4 weeks) June 25 – July 22, 2006  
*Virginia Institute for Marine Science* Program begins at 3 p.m.

NASA and VIMS participants are housed at Christopher Newport University and are transported to the mentorship sites daily.

## Students' Guide to Academic Schools and Mentorships

	AG	HUM	LSM	MST	NASA	VIMS
<b>Student Area(s) of Interest</b>	Agribusiness	Anthropology	Biology	Anatomy and Physiology	Aeronautical Engineering	Coastal Law
	Biotechnology	Economics	Chemistry	Astronomy	Computer Science – Advanced	Fisheries Science
	Environmental Science and Its Implications	History	Computer Science Applications	Computer Programming	Electrical Engineering	Marine Resources Management
	International Trade	Literature	Environmental Science	Geology	Materials Science	Oceanography
	Resource Management	Media	Forensics	Hydrology	Mechanical Engineering	Wetlands Ecology
		Philosophy	Medicine	Hypermedia		
		Political Science	Physics	Physics		
		Psychology		Upper Level Mathematics		
		Sociology				

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### Agriculture (AG)

The Governor's School for Agriculture offers an interdisciplinary curriculum of issues, topics, and challenges pertinent to the field of agriculture in its broadest sense. The program emphasizes the use of field experiences to investigate and research diverse topics related to environmental implications, resource management, biotechnology, political and economic implications of domestic and international trade, and the nature and structures of support systems within agribusiness. Students conduct field-based research using extensive contemporary data analysis and application methods. The program accepts a maximum of 100 students.

Students have access to a variety of innovative equipment, laboratories, and field sites at Virginia Tech and in the extended Blacksburg area. Resources from the agribusiness community are incorporated into field experiences and investigations. The primary goal of the agriculture program is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of the infrastructure and implications of Virginia's largest industry, its people, products, and opportunities. For more information, visit the Governor's School for Agriculture home page at <http://www.gsa.vt.edu>.

### Humanities (HUM)

The design of the SRGS for Humanities program at the University of Richmond, in residence and curricular collaboration with the Governor's School for Visual and Performing Arts, offers a broad-based, interdisciplinary presentation of courses related to the program's theme. Coursework offers students opportunities to explore how modern society requires, encourages, and restricts individuals as they seek realization of their creative potential. Through the humanities program, students explore integrated disciplines in the arts, history, literature, philosophy, anthropology, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and media.

Students obtain better understanding of themselves, their future roles, and the effect of their voices on society and the world through reading, discussion, seminars, and lectures. The primary purpose of the Summer Residential Governor's School for Humanities is to provide an enriching, intellectual experience that stimulates gifted students to use their imaginations, and to think more creatively and productively. Writing activities, group projects, guest speakers, and

field trips serve to integrate knowledge from many disciplines to a greater extent than is typically found in traditional educational programs.

Humanities applicants should have a solid background in American history and literature. Students selected for the program will choose a specific area of study related to the program theme. Approximately 200 students are accepted. For more information, visit the Governor's School for Humanities home page at <http://www.richmond.edu/govschool/> or contact the Governor's School via e-mail at [govschool@richmond.edu](mailto:govschool@richmond.edu).

Due to the university's scheduled renovation of the Robins Center, students attending the HUM and VPA program in 2006 will have limited access to that recreational facility. For specific information, please contact the director at [govschool@richmond.edu](mailto:govschool@richmond.edu).

### **Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM)**

Capitalizing on the latest developments in the life sciences and medicine, the Summer Residential Governor's School for Life Sciences and Medicine has been designed to heighten understanding and appreciation of the relationship between research in life sciences and clinical practices and treatments in medicine. This residential program, housed on Virginia Commonwealth University's academic campus, will accommodate 30 students. The format centers on the theme "Scale," as topics in the life sciences will be surveyed from the molecular to the systems levels. Students will be taught by high school science teachers, professors from the life sciences, and clinicians or researchers from a variety of laboratories and hospitals from VCU's medical college on the MCV campus.

The program emphasizes the multidisciplinary nature of life sciences. Students' extensive exposure to molecular biology, clinical biology, and environmental sciences over the first three weeks forms the foundation for completion of a group project in the fourth week. The curriculum consists of academically challenging lectures, laboratory, and field experiences provided by preeminent VCU clinical or research faculty, augmented with thought-provoking clinical and research experiences. A series of extra-curricular events including volunteering at MCV hospitals, career and personal development seminars, and diverse cultural and social activities enhance the students' learning experiences.

The types of students best suited for this program are those with an interest in science (biology/life sciences, forensics, environmental science, chemistry, physics, and computer science) and curiosity about the effects science exerts on the fields of medicine. Students who remain undecided about a medical career are welcome as well as those who are confident that careers in medicine are part of their future. Through the planned academic and extra-curricular experiences, students will experience the multitude of current and emerging career choices in the life sciences. Students with open minds about their career expectations often garner the most benefits from this program. This program is open to both current tenth- and eleventh-grade students. For more information, review the program's Web site: <http://www.vcu.edu/lifesci/community/governor.html>. **Students must have access to a personal computer for use during this program.**

### **Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST)**

The program for Mathematics, Science, and Technology at Lynchburg College provides students with broad interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary experiences designed to challenge students. The general goals of the school will be to encourage students to explore how mathematics, science, and technology affect their personal understanding of the world and society. Approximately 160 students will be accepted.

The program requires students to work in small groups, identifying research or field projects, and designing strategies to complete those projects. Results will be shared in a series of colloquia. Students will also work in small groups to study and discuss the philosophy and interplay among mathematics, science, technology, and society. These groups will identify important issues and prepare position papers addressing the issues that they identify. Each group will share its position in a "Symposium on Science and Society," which will be a major part of the Governor's School Teacher Recognition evening in the middle of the program. For more information, students may visit the Governor's School for Mathematics, Science, and Technology home page, <http://govschool2005.lyncburg.edu/> or contact the director via e-mail at [koger@lynchburg.edu](mailto:koger@lynchburg.edu).

**Engineering - NASA**

The Virginia Governor's School hosted at NASA/Langley Research Center is a residential summer program designed to provide challenging, real-life work experiences for 12 intellectually gifted high school students. NASA policies require that students working at its facilities be sixteen years of age by June 25, 2006, and be citizens of the United States in order to participate. Students are selected from among qualified candidates by the NASA coordinator and the site director.

Each student is paired with a NASA scientist or engineer who serves as a mentor and is responsible for designing engineering and/or research experiences with the student. The NASA coordinator carefully selects the NASA mentors on the basis of their willingness and ability to serve as positive role models, to develop engaging learning experiences, and their ability to relate to high school students. Mentors participate in orientation sessions in order to become acquainted with the dynamics and needs of gifted students. Mentors typically work in the following disciplines:

Aeronautical Engineering	Computer Science
Mechanical Engineering	Materials Science
Electrical Engineering	

Students work in labs and other facilities from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day, five days each week, throughout the four-week program. The site and program coordinators arrange special tours and lectures on a weekly basis in order to acquaint students with as many of the research facilities and activities at NASA/Langley Research Center as possible. At the conclusion of the program, each student delivers an oral presentation about his/her work assignment. The audience for this presentation consists of the NASA mentors, NASA scientists and engineers, and other Governor's School students. In addition to the oral presentation, each student will complete a research paper describing his/her work assignments for the four weeks. **Students must have access to a personal computer for use during this program.**

**Marine Science - VIMS**

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the Graduate School of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary, encompasses the study of biological, chemical, geological and physical oceanography, wetlands ecology, fisheries science, coastal law, marine resource management, and advisory services. Each summer, graduate students and professors conduct research and field studies in the estuaries and tidal basins, and of the Chesapeake Bay.

The VIMS program director and the site director select students to participate in the Governor's School for Marine Science; these students become members of one of the existing research teams, with the team leader serving as the student's mentor. At the conclusion of the four-week program, each student delivers an oral presentation about his/her research activities. The audience for these presentations consists of VIMS mentors and research staff, and other Governor's School students. The mentorship accepts not more than six intellectually gifted high school students.

Mentorship activities and responsibilities typically include a combination of the following: field and vessel work; collection, preparation and interpretation of data; library research; computer analysis; and laboratory studies. For more information, visit the VIMS Governor's School home page at <http://www.vims.edu/adv/gs/>. **Students must have access to a personal computer for use during this program.**

**NOTE:** Students nominated for the NASA or VIMS mentorships must be able to demonstrate that they have used a research design such as the one required for entries to the Virginia Junior Academy of Science (VJAS) or the International Science and Engineering (ISEF) competitions. Students are not required to have participated in those competitions; however, at least one teacher recommendation must include evidence that the student understands and has used a comprehensive research design consistent with VJAS/ISEF standards. Consult the following Web sites for more information about VJAS and ISEF, their research, components, or opportunities: <http://www.vacadsci.org/vjas-1.htm> or [http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/nsf50/nsfoutreach/htm/part\\_z2/part\\_sci.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/nsf50/nsfoutreach/htm/part_z2/part_sci.htm).

## **STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS**

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Students undergo a rigorous selection process that begins in October with the nominating process. Although open to all tenth- and eleventh-grade students in the commonwealth (including home-schooled as well as out-of-state private school students whose parents reside in Virginia), each school division or private school region is limited to a specific number of nominees it may send forward per area. Students may be nominated by a teacher or may nominate themselves. In addition, a student must rank at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile on recent standardized test measures. Between October and December, students must complete the application, which requires a student-written essay; two teacher recommendations including rating scales and written narratives; and the collection of test data from the students' cumulative records. The forms for the academic teacher recommendations are specific: **Academic Teacher Recommendation A** must be a person in the student's area of interest who can assess his/her abilities. **Academic Teacher Recommendation B** may be an adult (outside of the student's family) who has served as a sponsor or mentor in the student's field of interest and who knows him /her well. Please review the criteria on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

By the end of January, the school division and private school regional committees meet to select the division nominees. Division and regional nominations are due to the VDOE in mid-February, with invitations to attend offered in mid-April. Most Governor's Schools operate during the month of July.

**Acceptance and attendance at Governor's School is a month-long commitment.** Careful consideration needs to be taken of family needs and personal commitments prior to the submission of an application. Since spaces are highly competitive, students who can make a full commitment to the program are given highest priority. Leaves of absence are granted **ONLY** for family and/or medical emergencies. Leaves of absence will be granted for the hospitalization, serious illness or death of immediate family members, or the illness of the student.

## **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

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Students selected represent their school and school division or region. Each student acts as an ambassador of his/her area. Attendance at Governor's School is a privilege that can be revoked. Governor's School students are expected to display common courtesy and respect for fellow students at all times.

***Failure to comply with any of the following standards will result in immediate dismissal from the program:***

1. Students shall not possess or use alcohol or illegal drugs. (§ 4.1-305, 18.2-248, and 18.2-371.2 Code of Virginia)
2. Students shall not smoke, use or possess any tobacco product.
3. Students shall not possess or use any kind of weapon.
4. Students shall not leave campus or designated areas at any time without permission.
5. Students shall not visit the residential areas of the opposite gender at any time, nor enter residence halls occupied by other groups on campus.
6. Students shall not steal/borrow without the owner's permission.
7. Students shall not treat faculty, staff, presenters, students, or others on campus in a disrespectful manner.
8. Students shall not intentionally damage the property of others.
9. Students shall not commit any act of violence.
10. Students shall not bring a vehicle or ride in one unaccompanied by a staff member.

### ***Dress Guidelines***

To help insure a respectful community of learners and an environment conducive to learning, the Governor's School establishes these guidelines for student dress:

- Clothing should be neat, comfortable and modest.
- Students should avoid clothing that reveals midriffs, backs, or undergarments.
- Outdoor temperatures are usually warm so bring light, mostly casual clothing; however, the director will provide students with information about more formal activities.
- Air conditioning keeps academic spaces chilly, so warmer attire is recommended indoors.
- Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.



### ***Residence Halls***

Roommate assignments are made very carefully to ensure that students meet as many fellow students as possible. Students will receive roommate contact information in June. Male and female students are housed in separate living spaces and visitation between rooms and halls is never permitted. Resident-Life Advisors (RAs) live with students and are available at all times. Each program handbook will provide more specific information regarding the standards of conduct.

### ***What to Bring***

In addition to clothing, students are encouraged to bring the following items:

Alarm clocks	Irons	Radios, cameras
Bathrobe, shower shoes, towels and washcloths	Laundry products and clothes hangers	Quarters for laundry
Bedding for twin beds	Paper, pens, pencils	Swimsuits
Extension cords	Personal hygiene items	Umbrellas

The director at each Governor's School will provide a more specific list to students prior to the opening of each program.

### ***What NOT to Bring***

Student shall not bring the following items:

Alcoholic beverages	Computers – unless specifically required by the program director	Televisions or DVD players
Bicycles, roller blades, or skateboards	Drugs – other than prescribed medication	Tobacco products
Candles or incense	Expensive jewelry or stereo equipment	Telephones, pagers, or wireless phones
Cars	Pets	Weapons, “look alike” for theatre, or laser pointers

The director at each Governor's School will provide a more specific list to students prior to the opening of each program.

### ***Visitation***

With the understanding that one of the purposes of the school is to achieve a cohesive, self-contained environment in which students can study and come to know one another with a minimum of external distractions, family visits are limited to Parent Weekend. Non-family visitors may come on campus only with the family during that weekend.

At any time during the session, packages for students may be dropped off between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. at the Governor's School office. A member of the staff will deliver the package to the student as soon as possible.

### ***Wireless Phone Policy***

Each Governor's School seeks to promote community among its members, helping students discover the persons they are, not just the persons they are expected to be. This means fostering an environment with limited distractions. Over the past 30 years, we have found that students appreciate the ability to concentrate on new relationships within the community and leave behind, if only for a brief time, the demands and interruptions that everyday life imposes. We believe that wireless phones impede the fundamental goals of the Governor's School experience. To that end, we expect that students and parents will respect our community formation process by leaving wireless phones at home. If a parent has a grave concern regarding this policy, please contact the director in writing no later than May 16. Otherwise, we expect full compliance by students and parents with this policy.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What are the academic/artistic and social expectations for students?**

Participants need to understand before they arrive that the primary purpose of the Governor's School is to offer them a challenging and enriching artistic/academic and social program. Each program will include clear expectations for students' homework assignments, papers, projects, and/or "work in progress" demonstrations. The majority of the student's day is structured with morning and afternoon classes, explorations, and evening events.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning by attending classes, completing assignments, participating in group study and practice, and being well prepared for study each day. This program expects students to be physically as well as mentally motivated to participate fully in both artistic/academic and social activities. It is imperative that students assess their own mental and physical health, as well as their motives for attending the Governor's School, before applying for this program. Faculty and staff are employed as mentors, teachers, and student/resident advisors. The school maintains a very low student to teacher ratio. However, the program is not able to make a one-to-one assignment of student to staff member. For that reason, students should be in good or excellent health, and/or able to demonstrate necessary self-discipline, and if necessary, to self-medicate.

### **How is the program administered?**

The overall responsibility for the Summer Residential Governor's Schools rests with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). While the program is in session, the program and/or site director at each center has the responsibility for operating the specific program. The director's responsibility is to provide a challenging, academic program and to maintain an atmosphere conducive for participants to meet those challenges. The director possesses an understanding of gifted students and of programs for the gifted. All directors and staffs are dedicated to providing an educational opportunity for gifted students that is commensurate with the abilities and interests of those students and are eager to make students' experiences at Governor's School enjoyable and productive. Some of the faculty and staff are themselves former Governor's School participants.

### **What is the "typical" daily schedule?**

Each day is filled with diverse activities and classes; the schedules vary from day-to-day, as well as from discipline to discipline. A typical day begins with breakfast as early as 7:30 a.m. and concludes with curfew at 10:30 p.m. Evening and weekend activities include special programs such as concerts, lectures by visiting scholars, dramatic and musical productions, movies, and workshops.

### **Is there free time?**

A small portion of the daily schedule provides for free time. Students may prepare work, read, write letters, do laundry, etc. This time is limited, so students should be prepared to make the most of it.

### **What kinds of recreational and social events are planned?**

Many different recreational activities are provided in which students are expected to participate. Students will often have an opportunity to learn an activity that is new to them. Some events are planned for the enjoyment of the students and to assure a balance of activities. Dances, picnics, athletic events, hikes, canoeing, variety shows, etc., are examples of the social events. Informal, small-group discussions are often found in progress during free time in the lounges or on the lawns. Host sites have been selected based on their ability to provide a variety of recreational activities. RAs typically assist student athletes in their required training regimes. However, different athletic and recreation facilities are available at each site. Student athletes are encouraged to contact the director to determine the kinds of training support that may be available.

### **Are there field trips?**

Various field trips may be planned to augment the artistic, academic, and cultural program. A humanities class might visit the State Capitol and an arts class might visit a museum or a specific gallery. Field trips may not be practical for all classes, but when possible, they are incorporated for the fulfillment of the mission of the individual program.

### **Are grades and credit granted?**

Students receive Certificates of Commendation at the close of each program. Reports on individual student participation and course descriptions may be sent to the high schools of those students who complete the program and participate in the closing ceremonies; not all programs provide such reports. Check with the director to determine if and when such reports will be sent to the students' high schools. Copies of those reports may be secured by contacting the student's high school guidance office in the September following the student's participation in the program.

### **Who is eligible to attend these programs?**

The programs are structured to serve students who are highly able, well motivated, and who desire a challenging and rigorous summer experience. Students who are tenth- or eleventh-grade students during school year 2005-2006 and whose parent/guardian resides in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and who are eligible for a free, public education in

Virginia are eligible to apply. They must be identified (or be eligible to be identified) as academically gifted, and their overall achievement in schoolwork must meet application criteria. See pages 3 and 4 for additional criteria.

### **What is the application process?**

Students should complete the academic programs and mentorships application. The visual and performing arts program has a separate application and timeline. Students should contact their school counselor for these applications.

Instructors, school representatives, or peers may identify students who are eligible to complete applications. Students may also identify themselves as eligible. Most students apply directly through their guidance counselor or the school's designated Summer Residential Governor's School coordinator. Some larger divisions hold an intermediate screening or adjudication to narrow the pool of applicants to the divisions' quotas. The school division or private school region then selects its nominees from that pool of interested and qualified applicants. The completed applications for the nominated students, in rank order, are then forwarded to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Applications sent by students or parents directly to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will be returned immediately to the division/region gifted education coordinator.

### **Are these programs open to home-schooled students?**

Home-schooled students must submit a completed application to the principal of the appropriate high school in their division of residence. These applications then become part of the division's application and screening process. The chief administrative officer of the school division in which they reside must nominate home-schooled students.

### **Are these programs open to Virginia students who attend schools in other states?**

Students who attend private schools outside Virginia but whose parent(s)/guardian(s) resides in Virginia should contact Barbara McGonagill (Barbara.McGonagill@doe.virginia.gov.) for more information. It is imperative that these students make direct contact with the department as soon as possible for consideration. All students must participate in the statewide adjudication, without exception.

### **How will participants be selected?**

Public school division superintendents nominate students from each division. Students from accredited Virginia private schools will be nominated by a designated regional committee.

Final selection is made by the Department of Education and is based on the strength of the application, school division/private school region ranking, and needs of the program as indicated previously. No individual nominee is guaranteed acceptance.

### **When and how will students be notified of the selection?**

All nominated students will receive a letter regarding status mailed by the Department of Education by mid-April 2006. Status lists for all nominees will be sent to school divisions, regional coordinators, and heads of private schools by mid-April 2006, prior to their release to students. The department holds each school division and private school responsible for providing specific information in February 2006, to students who apply but are not nominated for state-level consideration. Those students must be provided written notice that their applications are not being forwarded to the department for further consideration.

### **Where does one get additional information about the Governor's School program?**

The gifted education coordinator in your school division, high school principals, heads of private schools, secondary school counselors, or the VDOE can provide details about the program.

### **What is the cost to participants?**

The cost of tuition, room and board, academic/artistic field trips, and other academic/artistic activities planned for the program will be paid from state and local funds. The 2006 tuitions for the academic program are provided below. The school division that nominates a student stipulates that it will pay its share of the tuition. The local share is determined by the school division's current ability-to-pay composite index.

Private schools are responsible for the local share of the tuition cost for their nominated students and the individual private school must stipulate its financial responsibility on the tuition certification form. The local share for private schools is 50 percent of the tuition cost.

<b>2006 Program Tuitions</b>	<b>Full Tuition Costs</b>	<b>Private School Portion of the Tuition</b>
Agriculture (AG)	\$2,000	\$1,000
Humanities (HUM)	\$1,560	\$ 780
Life Sciences and Medicine (LSM)	\$1,750	\$ 875
Mathematics, Science, and Technology (MST)	\$1,288	\$ 644
Mentorships in Engineering and Marine Science (NASA or VIMS)	\$2,888	\$1,444

Each student must provide his/her own spending money (approximately \$40-50 per week) and transportation to and from the program. In the event a student cannot afford these expenses, the school division or private school is encouraged to assist the student with these expenses.

#### **Where will participants be housed?**

Participants in the humanities program will live in the facilities at the University of Richmond. Participants in the agriculture program are housed in the dormitories at Virginia Tech. Life Sciences and Medicine participants are housed on Virginia Commonwealth University's academic campus. Lynchburg College provides housing for the Mathematics, Science, and Technology students. Meals will be provided in the dining halls of the universities. Participants in the VIMS and NASA mentorship programs are housed at Christopher Newport University and are transported daily to their study sites.

#### **Will recreational facilities be available to participants?**

Yes. Supervised recreational activities will be available on a limited basis. All students will be expected to participate. Students who need specific, continuous training activities or facilities should contact the program director or the department to determine if those facilities or opportunities are available. Student athletes must be chaperoned during these activities and may not participate in training activities at local high schools.

Due to the university's scheduled renovation of the Robins Center, students attending the HUM and VPA program in 2006 will have limited access to that recreational facility. For specific information, please contact the director at [govschool@richmond.edu](mailto:govschool@richmond.edu).

#### **What other services will be provided for participants?**

Professionally licensed guidance counselors who live on-site provide counseling. Medical services have been arranged through local services. The humanities program has a full-time nurse on staff. Security, which is a major concern with the Department of Education and the host site, is coordinated through the college/university security office. Other necessary services will be provided for participants. Accommodations are made for individuals with disabilities; please contact the department for more information concerning those arrangements.

#### **Will participants be granted a leave of absence from the program?**

Since time is limited and sequential activities are planned for each day of the session, any absence significantly compromises the student's experience at the Governor's School. Students are expected to arrive in time for the opening ceremonies (see pages 4 and 5) and to stay through the closing ceremonies. During its session, the only leaves of absence that will be considered are for cases of family or medical emergencies. In such cases, students may not leave and return without PRIOR approval of the school's director, and/or the VDOE.

Applicants - Please honor the dates that are established for submission of your application. Do not send applications directly to the Department of Education. The department does not override the decisions made by the school division or the private school regional committees.

**HELPFUL HINTS****FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

Take the SAT, PSAT, PSSS, or ACT tests since these scores may be used in the application process.

Have someone who is familiar with the terms in the scoring rubric read your speech/essay and give you feedback before it is turned in with the completed application.

Limit your entries on the Experience/Activities/Honors page to what is requested. BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE since the selection committees are not always cognizant of local and/or regional activities in each academic area.

Your final score is derived from the areas shown on the chart below. Please check with your school counselor about this information. Your counselor, as part of your final application, submits this information. Please add the specific dates provided by your school counselor to this chart for your future reference. Please remember, the school division and private school establish these dates and the VDOE expects you to honor them.

Score Source	Points
Activities/Research Studies/Honors	18
Student Selected Speech/Essay	12 (6 per reader)
Teacher Recommendations	38 (19 per teacher)
Ability, Achievement, Aptitude Scores	16
Unweighted Grade Point Average	8
Level of Course Difficulty	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>